

**ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE** August 29, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Consideration to initiate the rule making process for R7-2-612(D) and (E), regarding the Emergency and Teaching Intern Certificate

**SUBMITTED BY:** Vince Yanez

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** August 8, 2006

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Emergency Certificates:**

The Arizona Department of Education, Highly Qualified Unit was audited by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) April 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of 2005. A recommendation regarding the issuance of Emergency Teaching Certificates was part of the final report. The recommendation stated: "Arizona offers a one-year Emergency Teaching Certificate that is a waiver from full State certification. The license is renewable if the teacher completes six semester hours of coursework in the specialty area during the one-year validity of the certification. The Department encourages the State to eliminate its dependency on emergency and temporary certification to meet shortages, especially in special education. By the end of the 2005-2006 academic school year, all teachers of core academic subjects must meet the definition of highly qualified, which includes holding full State certification. Full State certification means that the teacher must not have had certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary or provisional basis."

Secretary Margaret Spellings in her Dear Colleague Letter dated October, 2005 provided states the option of requesting an extension until the end of the 2006-2007 school year to meet the requirements of "highly qualified." To qualify for the extension, states must show a "good faith effort" in reducing the number of teachers on waivers.

Proposed Board rule changes to the Emergency Teaching Certificate (R7-2-612.E) would limit an individual to three emergency teaching certificates. Rule language would require schools districts to actively recruit qualified candidates by advertising positions on a statewide basis and by posting job openings with the career and placement offices at least three Arizona institutions of higher education. Issuance of emergency teaching certificates would be reduced by requiring school districts to participate in available alternative pathways to certification program(s); however, this requirement may be waived if the district verifies that an alternative program is either unavailable or not capable of alleviating the emergency situation.

**Intern Certificates:**

Although Arizona statute and Board rule do not require paraprofessionals and student teachers to be certified, the Teaching Intern Certificate (R7-2-612.E) was designed for use by paraprofessionals and student teachers. With the advent of NCLB, Teach for America Corps members and NAU Peace Corps Fellows functioning as "teachers of record" were required to be "highly qualified" under NCLB and could no longer meet these requirements with the issuance of the emergency teaching certificate. A letter of agreement was drafted with Teach for America and NAU Peace Corps Fellows and ADE allowing their candidates to use the Teaching Intern Certificate for meeting the requirements of "highly qualified" under NCLB. Candidates in these programs were allowed to be "teacher of record" if they a) had a bachelor's or higher degree, b) held a teaching intern certificate and c) passed the content portion of the AEPA exam.

Proposed Board rule changes would align R7-2-612.E with current practice and would allow an individual who holds a Bachelor's degree and a passing score on the required content portion of the AEPA to enter into a teaching contract as "teacher of record" with a school district or charter school while enrolled in Arizona State-Board authorized alternative path to certification program (such as Transition to Teaching, Teach for America, Troops to Teachers, or the Alternative Secondary Path to Certification pilot), or an Arizona State-Board approved teacher preparation program.. The proposed rule changes meet the requirements for "highly qualified" under NCLB.

Pursuant to the Board's rulemaking procedures a public hearing was held regarding the proposed rules on August 4, 2006. No comments were received.

At the direction of the Board an additional public hearing was held on September 20, 2006. A summary of the comment received at this hearing is attached.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: ☐ INFORMATION ☒ ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:**

That the Board close the rulemaking record and adopt proposed rules R7-2-612 (D) regarding Emergency Teaching Certificates and R7-2-612(E) regarding the Teaching Intern Certificate.

**ATTACHMENTS: YES ☒ NO ☐**